

Legislative

ACTION

Session 2007

Building a better Washington – what's your vision?

A note from Rep. Deb Wallace:

How can we make our state a better place to live, work and raise a family? How can we make sure Washington has the best schools, the best jobs and the best health care in the nation?

Those are questions my colleagues and I are working on every day in Olympia, and they're questions I know you think about too.

The 2007 session of the Washington State Legislature is well underway and I think this is one of the most exciting and productive sessions I've experienced so far.

We're talking about real ways we can make sure every child has an opportunity to go to college or learn a trade. We're discussing bold ideas to help families find affordable health care options. We're planning new strategies to build upon the successes of businesses like Microsoft, nLight Photonics, and Nautilus to keep our economy thriving.

You'll find some ideas here for how I think we can do these things. But as always, I invite you to let me know your ideas. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for the privilege of serving as your representative in Olympia.

Sincerely,



Deb

*State
Representative*
**Deb
Wallace**



17th Legislative District

Contact information on back page

★ ★ Save the Dates ★ ★

• Let's talk!

Do you want to share an idea? Do you have a question about a bill or proposal you heard on the news? Let's talk!

When: Saturday, March 17 at 11 a.m.

Where: Washington Grange
7701 NE Ward Road, Vancouver

• Virtual Town Hall

*"Making post-high school education an option
for every student"*

I might be in Olympia during the legislative session, but I'm finding that technology can do wonders to keep us in touch.

I'm hosting a virtual Town Hall with local college students and anybody else interested in higher education issues.

When: Monday, April 2 at noon

Where: WSU-Vancouver Campus (Classroom
Building Room 130)

Representative **Deb Wallace • 17th District**

Creating the best jobs, the best schools and the best healthcare – how do we get there? Here are a few ideas.

Funding our future in technology

Semiconductor technology is everywhere. It powers cell phones, iPods and virtually all the high-tech devices that have become common place in our homes and offices.

The industry is also an economic boon for our region. It generates thousands of jobs and more than \$1 billion in revenue for Washington annually. Yet Southwest Washington's "Silicon Forest" is the only major high-tech center in the U.S. not anchored by a major research university.

With the proper funding we can change that and give world-



class researchers a home at Washington State University-Vancouver. That's why I'm working to secure funding for a new Washington Center for Semiconductor Research and Innovation.

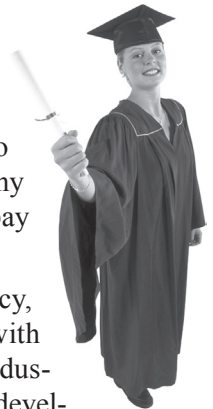
Establishing a Washington Center for Semiconductor Research and Innovation would:

- Put Southwest Washington at the forefront of semiconductor materials development
- Help local firms conduct research and attract research and development investments
- Provide workforce training
- Create job opportunities on our side of the Columbia River

Making post-high school education an affordable option for every student

Our kids must compete globally for jobs in our 21st century economy so post-high school education is more important than ever. However, sending a son or daughter to college is becoming such a financial challenge that many families and students are incurring enormous debts to pay their way, or students are simply opting not to go at all.

We can make college more affordable through tuition policy, opportunity grants, scholarships and partnerships. And with demand growing for skilled workers in a wide range of industries, partnerships among education, industry, economic development and labor will allow us to provide learning opportunities in these high need fields so we can grow Washington's prosperity and build a world class workforce.



Using the marketplace to transform our health care system

There's little question that there's a health care crisis emerging throughout our country. Today, nearly 600,000 people in Washington have no health insurance, and many of these folks are small-business owners or workers who simply can't afford the premiums.

In our current system, your choice is to pay a lot of money for individual insurance or get insurance through your employer. If you lose your job, you lose your insurance.

Now imagine being able to purchase your own insurance plan – a plan that you pay into and your employer can pay into. But it's your plan and if you switch jobs, only work part-time or have more than one employer, your insurance stays with you and your current employers can contribute.

That's the idea behind a bold new proposal being discussed in Olympia.

Individuals, small-business, people on state-subsidized plans and individuals who receive health coverage through associations would be combined into one single consortium. Insurance companies would sell their plans through the "Connector" where we would, in turn, purchase those plans.



Supporters say insurance companies would compete to represent such a large pool, and the state's Health Care Authority — which would administer the program — could negotiate for lower costs.

The idea is still being examined, but I'm looking forward to seeing whether this would really pencil out for those struggling to find affordable health insurance.

(continued on pg. 4)

Legislative ACTION

Legislative Survey - *What do you think?*

I hope you'll take a few moments to fill in this survey and return it to my office, or go to my website (www.leg.wa.gov/house/wallace) and complete the online version. As we tackle the big issues of education, transportation, health care and more, your feedback helps me understand your priorities. Thanks for your comments!

1. Education

Which of the following education-related areas do you believe are most important for the Legislature to address?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
WASL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational/Technical Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Simple Majority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you have any children that attend pre-school, K-12 or a college/university in Washington State? If so, how many and what ages?

3. Which of the following would be most effective in improving the overall quality of education in Washington? (check up to three boxes)

- ☐ Year-round schooling
- ☐ Longer school days
- ☐ Rigorous, standardized curriculum
- ☐ Increased teacher pay
- ☐ Pre-school and all-day kindergarten for every child
- ☐ Vouchers for private schools
- ☐ Other? _____

4. Transportation

Which kinds of transportation projects do you think are most important for the Legislature to fund?

	High Priority	Mid Priority	Low Priority
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rapid Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Light Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Port	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Growth management

What changes, if any, would you like to see regarding growth management in our area?

6. Health care

How do you rate health care in Washington State?

	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to medical providers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. About Deb

How would you grade Representative Deb Wallace's performance? (Circle one)

A B C D F

8. Is there anything else you'd like to tell Representative Wallace? Be sure to include your name and contact information if you would like a response.

9. About you

What is your primary source of information about the state Legislature? (select one)

- ☐ TV
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Other? _____
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Internet

10. Please indicate which demographic category you belong to.

- ☐ Male, age 18-50
- ☐ Female, age 18-50
- ☐ Male, age 50+
- ☐ Female, age 50+

Please
place
stamp
here



Representative Deb Wallace

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Deb Wallace • Legislative ACTION

Other good news

We're making good progress on several other issues to help families stay safe and healthy.

Protection from identity-theft

I've heard all kinds of stories from constituents who have been victims of identity theft, so I have been working on legislation to help protect people from the growing crime.

House Bill 1544 is one example of an easy way for people to protect themselves against ID theft. The bill would allow consumers to put a freeze on their credit at any time, regardless of whether suspicious activity has occurred or not.

This bill will empower people to protect their credit before it's damaged. As one constituent told me, being able to freeze your credit only after you've become a victim is like closing

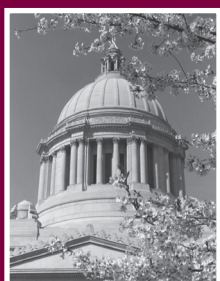
the barn door after the horse has escaped. We can prevent these crimes, rather than just waiting for it to happen and responding after the fact.

Continuing the fight against meth

Meth production and use is a scourge on our communities and environment. One of the ways meth addicts are finding money to pay for their habit is by stealing and selling scrap metal, particularly copper.

That's why I signed on to House Bill 1251, which will help us track those who try to sell scrap metal at second-hand dealers. It's one more way we can help our law-enforcement officials track down those who damage private property to make a quick buck.

Stay in touch...



Click – You can find bill information, listen to my podcasts, watch my legislative updates, find information on local agencies and organizations, and more.
www.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace

Call – Olympia office: 360.786.7976; Vancouver office: 360.260.6110;
Toll-free Hotline: 800.562.6000

Write – Wallace.Deb@leg.wa.gov; Washington State House of Representatives,
401 JLOB, PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Visit – I work in Olympia during the legislative session and have a local office the rest of the year. Stop by to say hello or visit us in Olympia if you'd like to tour the capitol to see democracy in action by watching a public hearing. The 2007 legislative session ends April 22.

Vancouver office (beginning in May) – 108 SE 124th Ave.